AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring communications usage, comprising:

        receiving a call <u>routed from a dialed number in a native transport network to a</u> <u>virtual telephone number in</u> [[at]] a service-providing network, ~~the call routed from a~~ ~~native transport network to a virtual telephone number in the service-providing network,~~ the native transport network having limited or no capability of providing advanced telephony service;

        providing the advanced telephony service to the call, wherein the virtual telephone number utilizes the intelligent services provided by the service-providing network;

        routing said call from the service-providing network to a terminating network destination; and

        monitoring a duration of said call traversing the service-providing network.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring a status of said call.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising routing said call to an original destination via the separate native transport network.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said service-providing network is a network selected from the group consisting of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a packet-switching network.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating the virtual telephone number to a wireless telephone number existing in the native transport network.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating the virtual telephone number to another telephone number existing in the native transport network.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said native transport network is a network selected from the group consisting of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a packet-switching network.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising billing a telecommunications provider of said native transport network for said monitoring.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising billing a subscriber based on said duration of said call.

11.   (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring communications usage, the system operative to:

      receive a call routed from a dialed number in a native transport network to a virtual telephone number in [[at]] a service-providing network, ~~the call routed from a native transport network to a virtual telephone number in the service-providing network,~~ the native transport network having limited or no capability of providing advanced telephony service;

      provide the advanced telephony service to the call, wherein the virtual telephone number utilizes the intelligent services provided by the service-providing network;

      route said call from the service-providing network to a terminating network destination; and

      monitor a duration of said call traversing the service-providing network.

12.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further operative to monitor a status of the call.

13.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further operative to route said call to an original destination via the separate native transport network.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further operative to associate the virtual telephone number to another telephone number existing in the native transport network.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further operative to associate the virtual telephone number to a packet voice-based telephone number existing in the native transport network.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said service-providing network comprises an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN).

17.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said service-providing network comprises a packet-switching network.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the service-providing network modifies messages accompanying the call so that the call is not routed back to the service-providing network in an endless loop.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the service-providing network modifies caller information associated with the call.

20.   (Cancel)